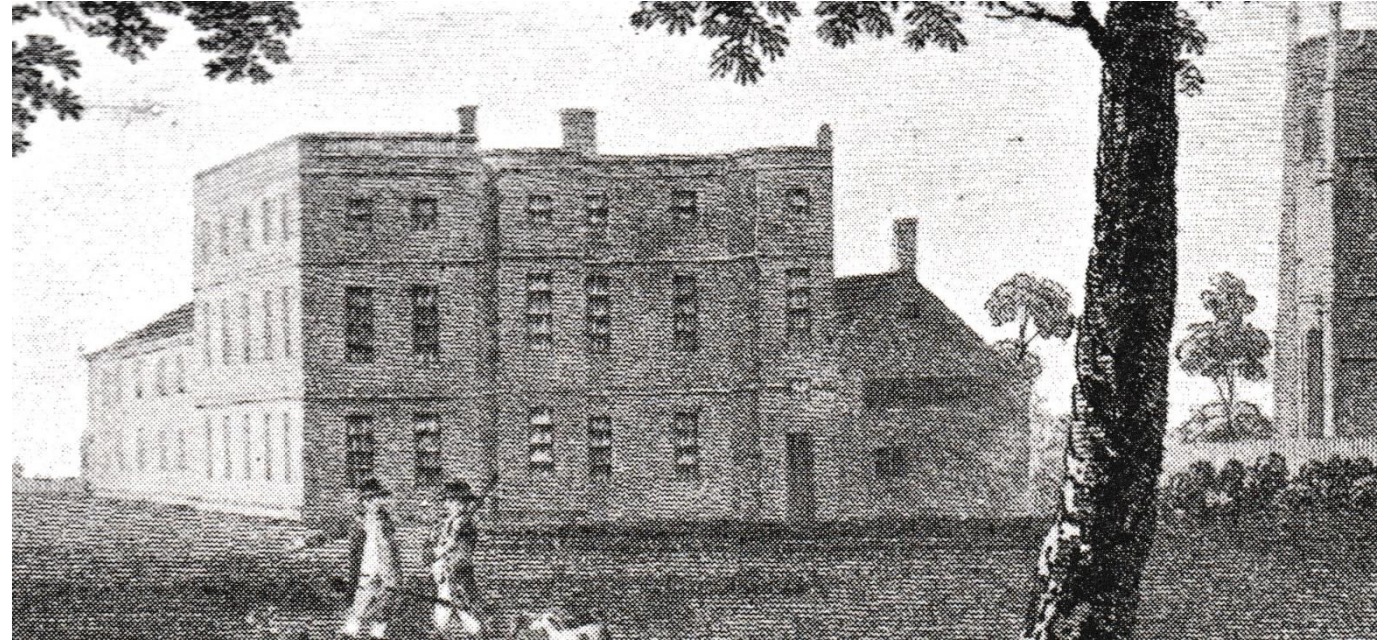
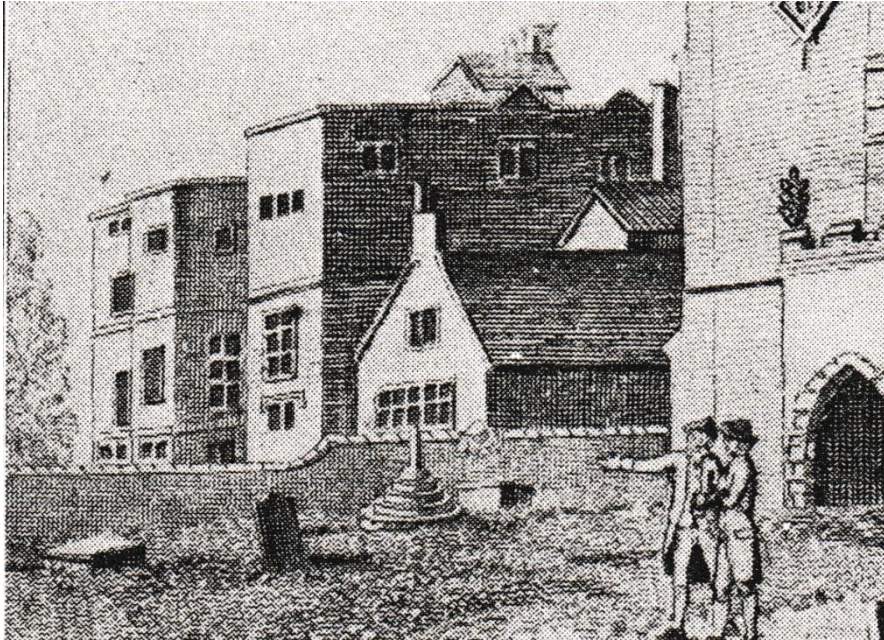


Norton Hall – The Previous One



Tony Spillane
21st October 2019

Norton Hall – The Previous One

- The current Norton Hall dates from approx. 1832
- It has evolved over time, with additions on the western side, and an orangery to the north west corner.
- It has cellars which may pre-date the building in certain areas, and there is a closed off door within the cellars which might go beyond the current building's layout.
- There currently exists a churchyard boundary wall which includes a stone window frame, potentially from an earlier building.
- These features, and various maps and pictures have been studied to try to identify the "Previous Norton Hall"

Norton Hall – The Previous One



Image dated 1793 from “Chantreyland” book.

Very regular window sizes and layouts in main square block.

Pitched roof building to right hand side (eastern side) of building, towards Norton Church.

No stone wall visible between Hall and Church.

Norton Hall – The Previous One

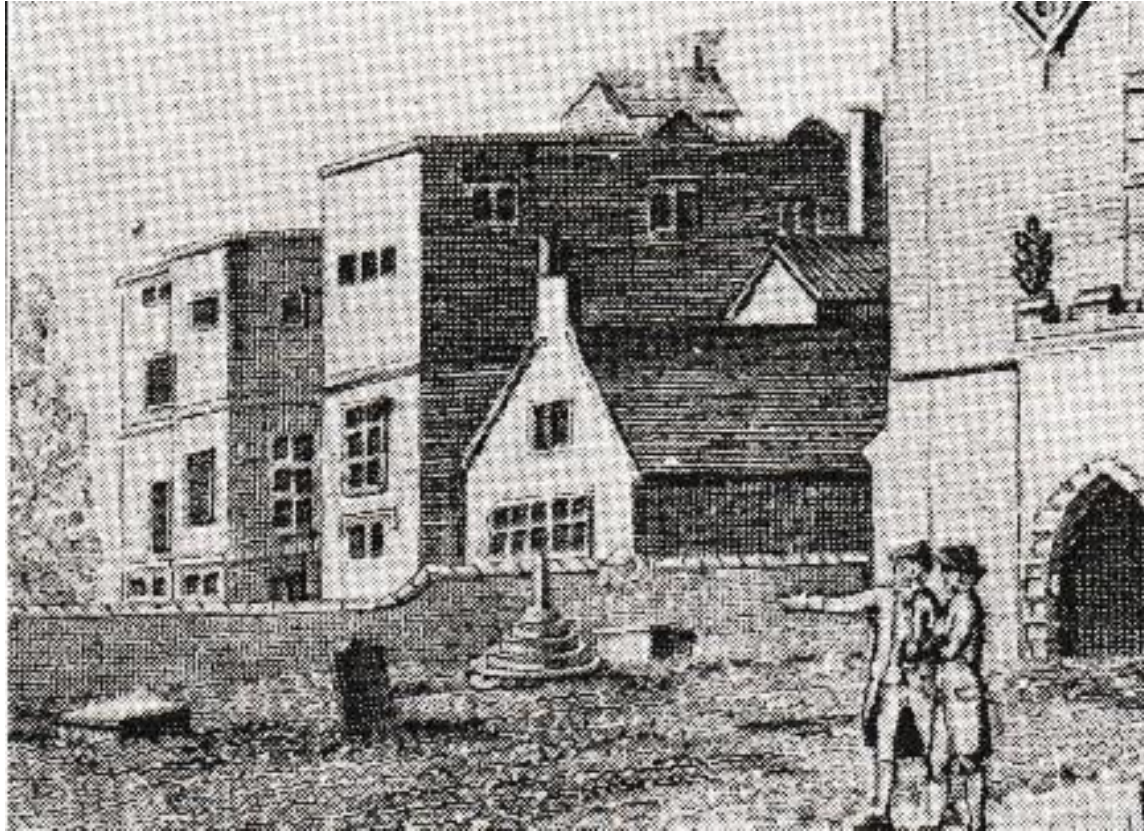


Image dated Circa 1800, from “Chantreyland” book.

Windows very irregular in size and location.

Pitched roof building to right hand side (Eastern side) of building, adjacent to Norton Church

Stone wall clearly visible between Hall and Church, with dip in height part way along

Small stone tower subsequently re-located to allow for Chantrey’s grave

Norton Hall – The Previous One

Likely conclusions from two images:-

- The main part of the “Previous Hall” was the square block, to the south west corner.
- It had a flat roof, three stories, and visible horizontal ridged features between each storey.
- There was some sort of recess mid way along the south facing wall, although the magnitude varies between the two images
- The window layout is very different between the two images, suggesting either significant building work (unlikely, as the older image has the better windows), or unreliability on the part of the image creator(s)
- Both images show a pitched roof building on the eastern side of the building, adjacent to the church.

Norton Hall – The Previous One



This map (part layout, part isometric) is dated 1741.

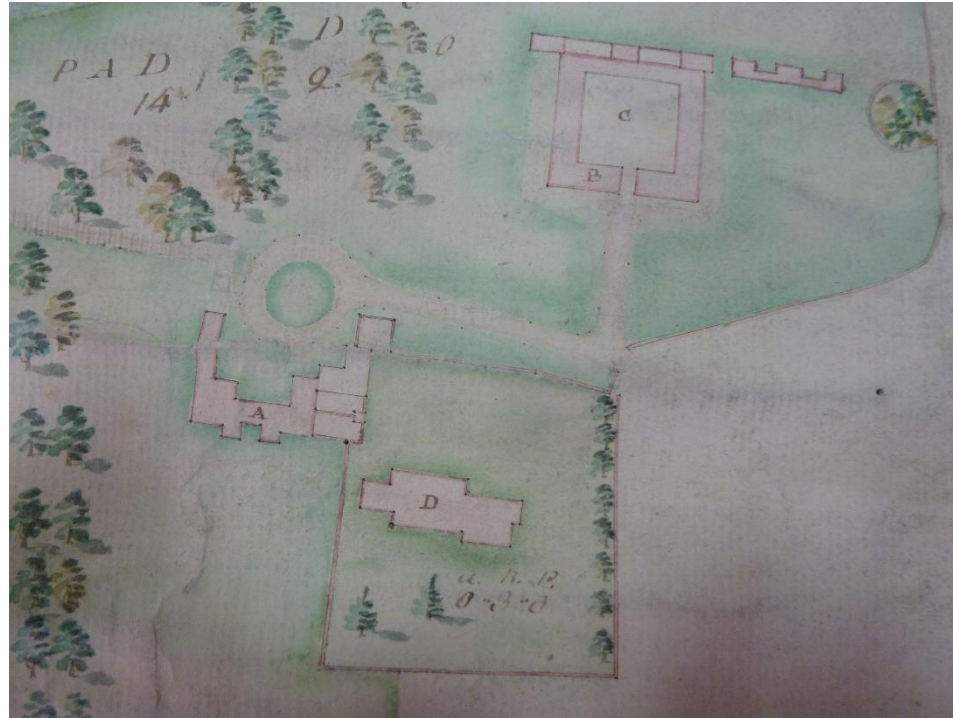
It shows the three storey 'square block' with regular windows, and a very long pitched roof building on the eastern side.

The eastern side of the Hall doesn't appear to reach the churchyard boundary.

The southern wall is almost in line with the southern wall of the church.

Although the church has a boundary, it is not possible to deduce the form of it.

Norton Hall – The Previous One



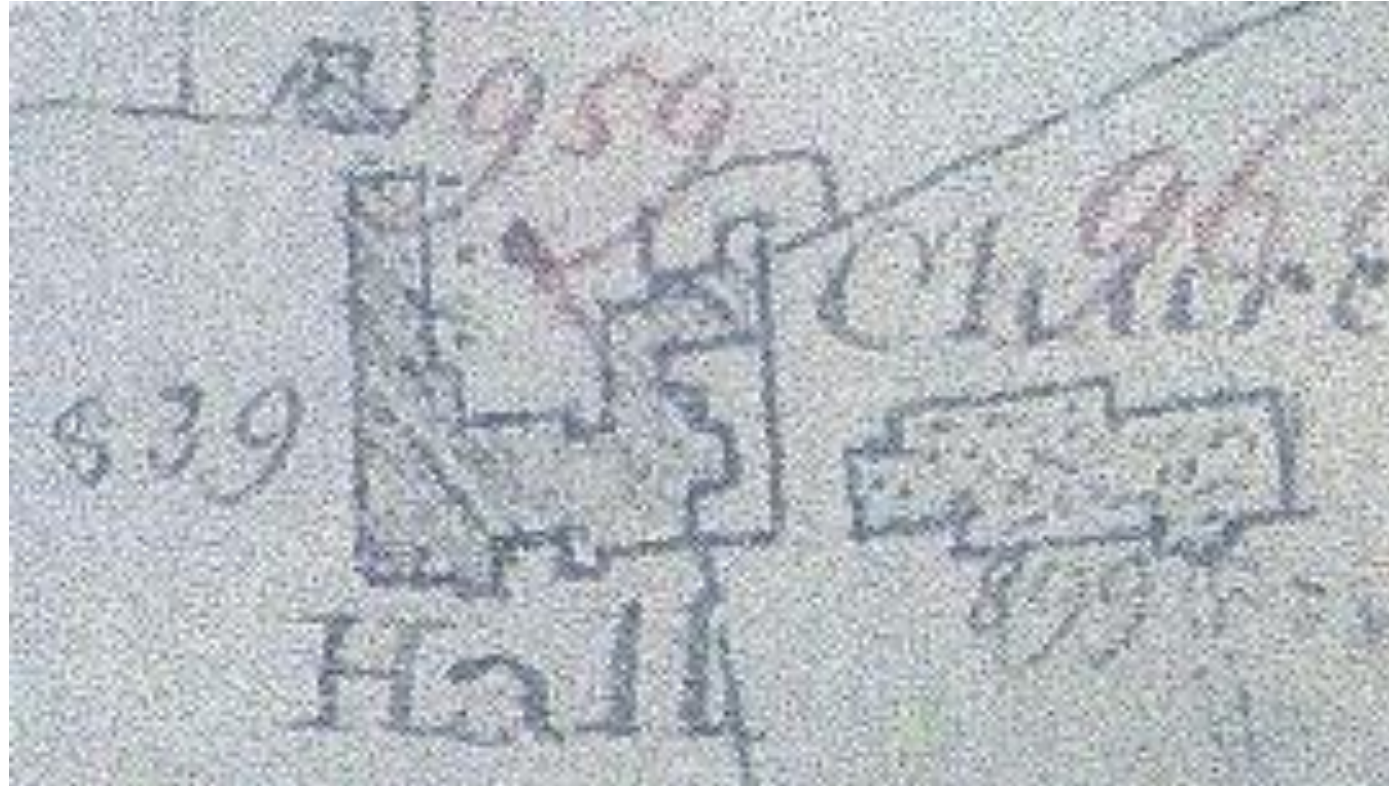
This map is dated 1775.

The main feature is that the Hall appears to be further north than shown in the other maps (the southern walls are no near aligned between Hall and Church)

The pitched roof building on the eastern side now appears to have a number of separate roofs, with possibly a chimney.

The eastern edge of the Hall now runs along the churchyard boundary

Norton Hall – The Previous One



This map is dated 1803. The southern walls of the Hall and the Church are now in line again. The Hall outline is quite detailed, therefore giving some credence to the layout. The south eastern end, under the pitched roof, now appears to have an irregular floorplan, suggesting that some building work has been done. The north eastern corner is still abutting the churchyard boundary, which is where the stone window frame still exists (see later).

Norton Hall – The Previous One

Likely conclusions from the three maps:-

- The “Previous Norton Hall” was located close to the Norton Church (much closer than the current Hall), with the southern walls in line (the 1775 map contains a positional error, as the Hall couldn’t move fifty feet north, and then fifty feet back again!)
- There is evidence of building change, particularly to the eastern pitched roof part of the building.
- The main entrance appears to be to the northern side, where there is a natural courtyard. The 1775 maps shows a roundabout and entrance way to the north, with a connection to the stables.
- Both the 1775 and the 1803 maps show some sort of structure (out-building?) to the north east corner, on the outside of the churchyard boundary corner. It is not shaded on the 1803 map, implying that it is not a main part of the building.
- The 1741 map shows some ornate gardens to the south and west of the Hall, but these are not shown on the 1775 map, despite trees and paths being shown. This implies that they fell into disuse.

Norton Hall – The Previous One



This photo shows the stone window frame still in-situ in the churchyard boundary wall.

It is now fairly clear that this wall was the eastern edge of the pitched roof part of the “Previous Norton Hall”
The wall at 90 degrees (on the right hand side of the photo) is also churchyard boundary wall, and on the other side of this would have been the previously mentioned possible out-building.

The window frame appears very low, however there is a difference in ground level each side of the wall. This is also visible in the 1793 image.

Apparently there is still a second stone window frame further along the wall, but it is obscured by modern items leaning against the wall.

Norton Hall – The Previous One



The churchyard boundary wall is now made of two layers (hence the window frame is blocked off). The second layer (effectively inside the pitched roof part of the building) contains a couple of interesting features. These are vertical rectangular steps in the wall, that taper from nothing at ground level, to their maximum at the top of the wall (see photo, taken from above looking downwards)

This appears to give clearance to a rectangular vertical structure, eg a timber crook archway / roof structure. There are two or three of these features along the length of the wall where the pitch roofed structure would have been.

Norton Hall – The Previous One

Overall conclusions / suggestions:-

- This property appears to date from at least the early 1700's until the early 1800's. It was replaced in approx. 1832.
- The property was much closer to the Norton Church than the current Norton Hall, and shared a wall with the churchyard boundary
- The property consisted of a three storey square block, with a pitched roof part of the building to the eastern side.
- The main entrance way and court yard was to the north of the building.
- In the mid 1700's. the property had ornate gardens to the south and west.
- The pitched roof eastern part of the building may have been from an even older building, and simply incorporated into the square block design of the main part of the building.

Norton Hall – The Previous One

Suggestions / next steps:-

- Seek permission to unlock the ‘Locked door’ in the current Norton Hall cellar, to see if they go under the location of the ‘Previous Hall’ (and even a secret passage to the church cellars?)
- Compare the age of the current cellar bricks to the churchyard boundary wall bricks.
- Measure up the rectangular features in the churchyard boundary wall, and see if they correspond to potential timber structural elements. Check ground locations.
- Try to establish ground level either side of the churchyard boundary wall, and measure the height difference.
- Geo-phys the potential wall foundations of the ‘Previous Norton Hall’, and hence establish a room floor plan
- Pursue the Derbyshire Records Office / Haddon Hall mystery to see if there are additional records available